

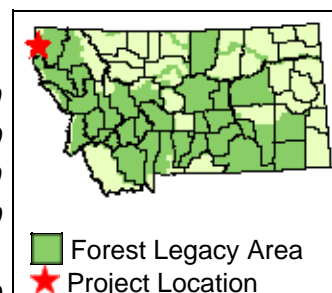
Forest Legacy Project



Stimson Forestlands Conservation Project, Troy, MT (Lincoln County), Montana

FUNDING HISTORY

<i>Forest Legacy Program FY 2013 Funding</i>	<i>\$ 6,500,000</i>
<i>FY 2013 Non-Federal Cost Share</i>	<i>\$ 9,400,000</i>
<i>FY 2013 Project Costs</i>	<i>\$ 15,900,000</i>
<i>FY 2013 Project Acres</i>	<i>28,000</i>
<i>Forest Legacy Funding to Date</i>	<i>\$ 0</i>
<i>Total Project Costs</i>	<i>\$ 15,900,000</i>
<i>Total Project Acres</i>	<i>28,000</i>



<i>Tract Name</i>	<i>Size (acres)</i>	<i>Tract Cost</i>	<i>FLP Funding</i>	<i>Non-Fed Cost Share</i>	<i>Status</i>
Kootenai River	28,000	\$ 15,900,000	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 9,400,000	Proposed 2013
Total	28,000	\$ 15,900,000	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 9,400,000	

General Description – Stimson Lumber Company is offering to sell a conservation easement on 28,000 acres of highly productive timberland that it owns near Troy, MT. Montana's State Assessment of Forest Resources rated this land as MT's highest priority for forestland protection. The project area contains some of the best wildlife habitat in MT, supporting 8 federally listed or candidate T & E species and numerous other rare, sensitive and game species. Despite its many non-contiguous parcels, the project lands function as a single unit, with an extensive network of public roads providing easy access and allowing timber management activities to be conducted in an efficient and cost effective manner. The lands are also highly developable and at risk of being converted to non-forest uses, with Stimson now in the process of liquidating much of its remaining MT land holdings. The proposed conservation easement would allow Stimson to retain these core timberlands, preclude development, ensure continued timber management, sustain local wood products jobs, protect incredible wildlife habitat and key landscape connectivity, and provide permanent public access to extraordinary recreation lands.

PROJECT FEATURES

Important:

- A1. FOREST PRODUCTIVITY: Project lands are located in an area that was rated as the highest priority for forestland protection in the 2010 MT State Assessment of Forest Resources.
- A2. FOREST PRODUCTIVITY: Project lands are located in one of the best timber growing regions in MT. Aided by high precipitation levels and a maritime climate, trees grow faster here than anywhere else in the state.

- A3. FOREST PRODUCTIVITY: A Forestland Revaluation Report prepared for the MT Department of Revenue recently ranked Lincoln County, where the project lands are located, as #1 in MT in terms of overall forestland productivity.
- B1. FOREST ECONOMICS: The MT Bureau of Business and Economic Research estimates that the sustainable annual harvest of 10–12 MMBF on the project lands provides direct employment for an estimated 120–140 full-time workers in the local area.
- C1. FOREST SUSTAINABILITY: All project lands are currently managed according to SFI standards and in compliance with a Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan, which was approved by the USFWS in 2000.
- C2. FOREST SUSTAINABILITY: Stimson was presented with the Forest Practices Operator of the Year award by the Oregon Board of Forestry in 2008 and the Energy Leadership Award by Energy Trust in 2007 (Included Montana and Idaho lands).
- D1. NON-TIMBER ECONOMICS: Project lands currently provide an estimated 8,000 hunter and 1,000 angler days per year, generating about \$700,000/year in direct expenditures.
- E1. T & E SPECIES: Project lands are occupied grizzly bear habitat and are located within the USFWS designated Cabinet–Yaak recovery area, with a population of 35–40 bears listed as warranted for endangered status under the Endangered Species Act.
- E2. T & E SPECIES: USFWS recovery coordinator stated that this project will enhance on-going efforts to increase the Cabinet–Yaak grizzly population, helping to ensure connectivity among adjoining populations and access to unoccupied habitat to the south.
- E3. T & E SPECIES: Three packs of gray wolves use the project lands. One den site was confirmed on the property in 2010. Members of the MT Stewardship committee observed a wolf during a field tour of the property in August 2010.
- E4. T & E SPECIES: Northern project lands provide designated critical habitat for Canada Lynx as identified in the USFWS 2009 Canada Lynx Recovery Plan.
- E5. T & E SPECIES: Project lands border and drain into the Kootenai River, home to a population of white sturgeon listed as endangered by the USFWS. White sturgeon are the largest freshwater fish species in North America.
- E6. T & E SPECIES: Project lands provide designated critical habitat for the threatened bull trout, including about 4 miles of important spawning habitat along O'Brien Creek.
- F1. HABITAT: Streams on the property provide 10 miles of



outstanding spawning habitat for westslope cutthroat trout and Columbia Basin redband trout, two fish species of high conservation concern.

- F2. HABITAT: Project lands provide key habitat for 18 species of greatest conservation need in MT's comprehensive fish and wildlife conservation strategy and 44 bird species identified as priorities in the MT Partners-In-Flight conservation plan.
- G1. HABITAT LINKAGE: Project lands include 2 travel corridors identified by the USFWS as important for grizzly bear movement between large blocks of public forestland. A 3rd corridor is located just South of project (see map).
- G2. HABITAT LINKAGE: Project lands have been identified in the American Wildlands' Priority Linkage Assessment for the Cabinet-Purcell Conservation Area as an important wildlife travel corridor for several wide-ranging carnivore and ungulate species.
- G3. HABITAT LINKAGE: Project lands are included in one of 6 "keystone initiative" areas that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is focusing on as a national priority for maintaining and improving habitat connectivity in the Northern Rockies.
- H1. CLIMATE CHANGE: Project lands are located within the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative planning area, a new USFWS sponsored initiative to address priority conservation needs in the face of climate change.
- H2. CLIMATE CHANGE: The US-Canadian trans-boundary wildlife working group has identified fee or CE acquisition as its #1 priority to maintain connectivity across these landscapes and allow species to adapt to future climate change.
- I1. PUBLIC ACCESS: Project lands support a wide range of recreational opportunities and, under the terms of the conservation easement, will be permanently accessible to the general public free of charge.
- I2. PUBLIC ACCESS: Stimson currently allows free public recreation, will continue to do so under the easement, and will add camping opportunities as a term of the easement.
- I3. PUBLIC ACCESS: The project lands are currently enrolled in the state Block Management Program – a cooperative effort between private landowners and the state that provides free public hunting access to private lands.
- J1. RIPARIAN: The project includes over 44 miles of stream and 1,100 acres of riparian habitat. The easement will include terms that limit forest management along streams within an 80-foot buffer on either side of the floodplain.

- K1. SCENIC: Project lands are part of a landscape and scenic viewshed that are being marketed by Lincoln County and the Montana Tourism Council as: “Rich, Rare, Remote”. They also constitute the scenic backdrop to the City of Troy.
- K2. SCENIC: Project lands offer panoramic views of the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Area, West Cabinet Mountains, Kootenai River, Yaak Mountain and many signature peaks.
- L1. HISTORIC: Project area includes a variety of historical remnants of recent history such as old homestead cabins, old mill sites, and historic railroad and logging structures.
- L2. CULTURAL: About 8,000 acres of the project lands have been inventoried and found to contain important cultural resources, in addition to thousands of acres of adjoining public lands that also contain countless native American cultural sites.
- L3. TRIBAL: Native Americans historically used the Kootenai River valley as an important travel corridor, providing access to sacred sites just 3 miles upstream from the project area.
- L4. TRIBAL: The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, with its headquarters 35 miles to the west, supports the project, stressing that conservation easements “not only protect these resources, but also contribute to a sustainable local forest-based economy”.

Threatened:

- A. LEGAL PROTECTION: Lincoln County’s Growth Policy seeks to maintain the rural character of the county and preserve traditional land uses and open space to the greatest extent possible, but no regulatory mechanisms exist to implement this goal.
- B. ADJACENT LAND USE: Much of the development activity in Lincoln County over the last 6 years has occurred in the vicinity of the project lands.
- C. LANDOWNER CIRCUMSTANCE: Stimson is in the process of selling almost two-thirds of the timberland it owns in MT. State law allows any landowner to sell parcels of 160 acres or larger without any governmental review or approval.
- D. LANDOWNER CIRCUMSTANCE: Stimson purchased the project lands from Plum Creek in 2003. The conservation easement will lower the company’s cost basis and make it economically feasible to continue managing these lands for timber into the future.
- E. ABILITY TO DEVELOP: Project includes many parcels with HBU for development that could easily be sold even in today’s market. Plum Creek already sold 6,000 acres in this area, nearly all of which has been subdivided and developed within the last 6 years.

Strategic:

- A. INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: This trans-boundary area is part of the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative, a priority for landscape-level conservation and part of the President’s newly announced America’s Great Outdoors Initiative.
- B. INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: Patagonia’s Freedom-to-Roam campaign identified the Cabinet-Purcell Mountain Corridor that includes these lands, as a top conservation priority and a

critical link for maintaining long-term biodiversity across the US–Canadian border.

- C. CONSERVATION STRATEGY: Project would buffer over 72 miles of National Forest System lands from future residential development. It is strongly supported by the Kootenai National Forest and the entire interagency Selkirk/Cabinet–Yaak grizzly bear subcommittee.
- D. CONSERVATION STRATEGY: Project lands are surrounded by past and ongoing conservation efforts by the Vital Ground Foundation, the states of Idaho and Montana, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and Avista Corp.
- E. CONSERVATION STRATEGY: The project complements the Vital Ground Foundation's on-going efforts to protect grizzly bears within the Cabinet–Yaak–Purcell grizzly bear recovery area.
- F. CONSERVATION STRATEGY: The project complements multiple FLP-funded projects that have been completed nearby on the Idaho panhandle side of the Cabinet–Yaak–Purcell grizzly bear recovery area.
- G. CONSERVATION STRATEGY: The project builds on the success of the FLP-funded Thompson–Fisher conservation easement, which conserved 142,000 acres of similar, working forest lands with high wildlife values on the east side of the Cabinet Mountains.
- H. CONSERVATION STRATEGY: Southern-most project parcels border the 1,900-acre Bull River Wildlife Management Area, part of a key linkage zone between the East and West Cabinet Mountains, made possible by a broad-based coalition including Avista Corp., The Conservation Fund, Revett Minerals and MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
- I. CONSERVATION STRATEGY: Avista Corp.'s ongoing mitigation program to the south and west of the project area has restored 7 miles of stream and conserved more than 2,600 acres of riparian habitat over the last 10 years, and their work continues at a rate of more than \$3 million per year.

Ready:

- A. INFORMATION COMPLETED TO SUPPORT COST ESTIMATE. YES. An appraisal consulting report has been completed, establishing a preliminary estimate of value for the 28,000-acre conservation easement at \$15.9 million.
- B. LANDOWNER AND EASEMENT HOLDER HAVE AGREED TO CONDITIONS: YES. Stimson has agreed to accept a conservation easement similar to the Thompson–Fisher and Swan Valley conservation easements that were previously funded by FLP in MT.
- C. COST SHARE COMMITMENT: YES. 41/59 match. 25% will be satisfied by Stimson through a bargain sale. An additional 34% has been identified and a commitment made by other partners.
- D. SIGNED OPTION: YES. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Stimson have entered into a 2-year option, giving TPL the right to purchase a conservation easement over the project lands for 75 percent of its appraised value.
- E. TITLE COMPLETED: YES. A preliminary title commitment has been completed.
- F. MINERALS DETERMINATION IS COMPLETED: YES. A minerals potential report has already been completed for the project lands.
- Supporting parties include: American Wildlands and numerous local conservation and sporting groups, Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Kootenai National Forest, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Montana Wildlife Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy of Montana and Vital Ground Foundation.

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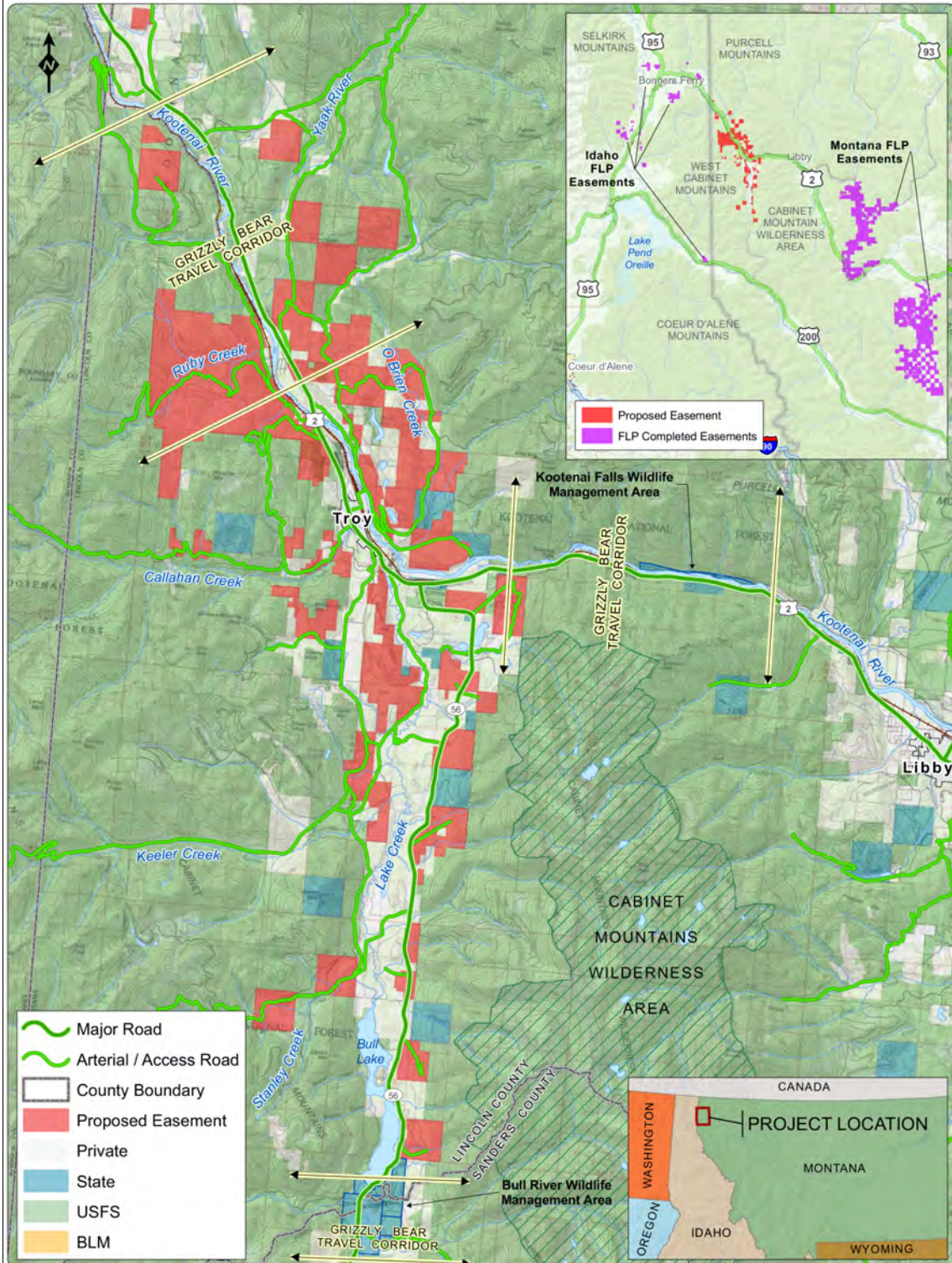
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PROPOSED EASEMENT LOCATION AND NEIGHBORING REGION STIMSON FORESTLANDS CONSERVATION PROJECT

Trust for Public Land
Stimson Lumber Company



Roads, hydrologic features and topographic base provided by Esri.
Ownership provided by the Montana Cadastral Mapping Program, last update 3/2010.
Boundaries are approximate and are not legally defined.

Map by C. Kellar, last update 10/31/2010.

0 1 2 4 6 Miles



THE TRUST
for PUBLIC LAND
CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE